

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /060 W

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R 121615Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2102

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0259

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG GR

SUBJECT: FURTHER STATEMENTS ON SHIFT IN NAVY CHIEF

REF: ATHENS 223

1. AS A RESULT OF NEWSPAPER SPECULATION CONCERNING THE REASONS BEHIND THE RESIGNATION OF FORMER CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC NAVY ENGOLFOPOULOS -- AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY VICE ADMIRAL MOURIKIS -- BOTH ADMIRAL ENGOLFOPOULOS AND THE DEFENSE MINISTER CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE STATEMENTS ON THE MATTER.

2. IN HIS STATEMENT JAN 9, VICE ADMIRAL ENGOLFOPOULOS STATED THE FOLLOWING: BEGIN QUOTE: THE VARIOUS RUMORS CONCERNING MY RESIGNATION ARE INCORRECT. THE TRUTH IS THAT I WAS REQUESTED TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE NAVY FOR ONLY A FEW MONTHS TO HELP RESTORE NORMALCY. AFTER THE LAPSE OF AN ENTIRE YEAR, I CONSIDER THAT MY MISSION HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, AND I ACCORDINGLY SUBMITTED MY RESIGNATION. I RETIRE SATISFIED THAT THE NAVY HAS  
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RETURNED TO ITS TRADITIONS AND ITS FULL COMBAT

ABILITY. END QUOTE.

3. ON JAN 10 MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AVEROFF ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, BEGIN TEXT:  
I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE SERVED BY THE  
CONTINUING REPORTS PUBLISHED BY A PART OF THE PRESS  
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RESIGNATION OF THE CHIEF OF  
THE NAVY. IN HIS STATEMENT, ADMIRAL ENGOLFOPOULOS  
EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR RESIGNING, WHICH HAVE NO  
RELATION WHATEVER WITH DISAGREEMENTS ON SUBJECTS  
CONCERNING THE ARMED FORCES. IN PARTICULAR, THE SUBJECT  
OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMAND  
WAS RAISED MANY MONTHS AGO ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER, AND, BECAUSE OF THE COMPLICATIONS  
INVOLVED, THE SUBJECT IS STILL BEING STUDIED BY  
EXPERTS UNDER MY PERSONAL SUPERVISION. WHEN WE ARE  
READY, WE SHALL SUBMIT OUR CONCLUSIONS TO THE PRIME  
MINISTER IN THE FORM OF A BILL TO BE PRESENTED TO  
PARLIAMENT. END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: WHEN HE PAID HIS FAREWELL CALL ON THE  
CHIEF OF JUSMAGG, ADMIRAL ENGOLFOPOULOS TOLD HIM THAT  
HIS DEPARTURE WAS NOT UNDER THE "MOST COMPLETELY  
SATISFACTORY" CONDITIONS AND THAT HE HAD HOPED TO  
STAY UNTIL NEXT JUNE. HE INTIMATED THAT HE DID NOT  
GET ALONG WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AND ESPECIALLY WITH  
SHAFC, AND THAT THIS EXPLAINED HIS EARLY DEPARTURE.  
THIS IS IN LINE WITH OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO  
THE DEFATT WHO WOULD ADD THAT ENGOLFOPOULOS  
DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY'S SHARE OF THE DEFFENSE  
BUDGET -- BOTH LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR -- CONSTITUTED  
A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN RELATIONS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MORG, GR, (ENGOLFOPOULOS, CONSTANTINE), (MOURIKIS, SPIROS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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